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INFO LOG-00	COPY-01	ADS-00	INR-10	EUR-00	SS-00	CIAE-00
EB-08	H-01	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	COME-00	SSO-00	SY-06
HA-08	L-03	LAB-04	TRSE-00	PM-10	PA-01	MCT-03
OMB-01	SIL-01	SVC-00	INRE-00	A-02	SYE-00	USIE-00
SP-02	DOEE-00	SNP-01	PRS-01	SLPD-01	SPD-01	/065 W

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O 251333Z JUL 85
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1307
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY ROME
DIA WASHDC//OB-3/OCS 1/AT/AT-511
JCS WASHDC//J5//
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS//PN//SC-J2//

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 01 OF 02 BOGOTA 08966

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: EPET, PTER, CO
SUBJECT: GOC PUNISHES GERMAN COMPANY FOR PAYING
PROTECTION MONEY TO GUERRILLAS

REF: BOGOTA 8627

1. (C) SUMMARY: THE GOC HAS DEMANDED THAT A GERMAN COMPANY INVOLVED IN BUILDING THE CANO LIMON PIPELINE FIRE TWO EMPLOYEES WHO ALLEGEDLY PAID GUERRILLAS FOR PROTECTION. ACCORDING TO A GOC INVESTIGATION, OTHER FOREIGN COMPANIES, INCLUDING OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM, ALSO HAVE MADE SUCH PAYMENTS. THE COMPANIES MUST REPORT ANY FUTURE CONTACTS WITH GUERRILLA GROUPS. THE PUNISHMENT APPEARS MILD BUT SERVES AS A WARNING THAT THE GOC WILL NOT TOLERATE SUCH BEHAVIOR BY FOREIGN COMPANIES. UNLESS THE GOC EFFECTIVELY PROTECTS THEM, HOWEVER, THE PIPELINE BUILDERS MAY EVENTUALLY FIND IT NECESSARY TO REACH SOME CONFIDENTIAL

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SORT OF ACCORD WITH THE GUERRILLAS. END SUMMARY
2. (U) THE GOC HAS DEMANDED THAT MANNESMAN, THE GERMAN COMPANY CONTRACTED TO BUILD ONE SEGMENT OF THE CANO

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J. OLSON
DATE/CASE ID: 24 OCT 2002 200201334

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LIMON PIPELINE, FIRE ITS GENERAL MANAGER AND CHIEF OF SECURITY IN COLOMBIA BECAUSE THEY ALLEGEDLY PAID PROTECTION MONEY TO A GROUP OF ELN GUERRILLAS. THE TWO EMPLOYEES HAVE REPORTEDLY RESIGNED BUT HAVE DECLARED THEMSELVES INNOCENT.

3. (U) THE ACCUSATION THAT FOREIGN COMPANIES HAD MADE PROTECTION PAYMENTS TO GUERRILLA GROUPS WAS MADE PUBLIC BY A MILITARY COMMANDER AND THE PRESIDENT OF AN AGRICULTURAL INTEREST GROUP (SEE REFTEL). SUBSEQUENTLY, THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL INVESTIGATED THE CHARGE AND FOUND THAT IN 1984 MANNESMAN HAD PAID 600 MILLION PESOS (U.S. DOLS 4.3 MILLION, AT THE CURRENT RATE OF EXCHANGE OF 140 PESOS/DOLLARS) TO THE NATIONAL LIBERATION ARMY (ELN) TO AVOID HAVING ANY MORE EMPLOYEES KIDNAPPED. IT ALSO FOUND EVIDENCE THAT OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM COMPANY AND AN ITALIAN CONSTRUCTION FIRM, SISIN, HAD PAID 180 MILLION PESOS TO GUERRILLAS FOR THE SAME PURPOSE. THE PAYMENTS WERE ALLEGEDLY MADE AFTER ELN GUERRILLAS HAD KIDNAPPED FOUR MANNESMAN EMPLOYEES.

4. (U) THE GOC SAYS IT HAS VERY DETAILED INFORMATION AND CONCRETE PROOF ABOUT ELN CONTACTS WITH THE FOREIGN COMPANIES. ACCORDING TO A STORY IN EL TIEMPO OF JULY 24, THE ELN MET WITH A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE THREE FOREIGN COMPANIES IN DECEMBER 1984 NEAR THE BORDER JOINING THE DEPARTMENTS OF BOYACA, NORTH SANTANDER AND ARAUCA. THE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTEDLY AGREED TO PAY THE ELN U.S. DOLS 200,000 PER MONTH BEGINNING IN FEBRUARY 1985. THESE PAYMENTS ALLEGEDLY CONTINUED FOR SIX MONTHS.
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5. (U) APPARENTLY THIS TYPE OF EXTORTION IS NOT NEW IN COLOMBIA. FOR MANY YEARS, THE ELN HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN CONDUCTING SIMILAR BUSINESS WITH FOREIGN LUMBER COMPANIES OPERATING IN THE MEDIO MAGDELENA.

6. (U) ON JULY 23, OXY OF COLOMBIA PUBLICLY RESPONDED TO THESE CHARGES BY STATING THAT OXY AND ITS CONTRACTORS ARE OBLIGED BY CONTRACT TO OBEY THE LAWS AND AUTHORITY OF OFFICIALS IN COUNTRIES WHERE IT DOES BUSINESS. HOWEVER, DUE TO THE NATURE OF THE OIL BUSINESS, ITS CONTRACTORS WORK WITH FULL ADMINISTRATIVE AUTONOMY. NONETHELESS, OXY WOULD OFFER ITS FULL

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COOPERATION WITH COLOMBIAN AUTHORITIES TO CLARIFY
WHATEVER SITUATIONS INVOLVE ITS CONTRACTORS.

7. (U) THE GOC, FOR ITS PART, HAD ANNOUNCED THAT IT WILL INCREASE ITS PRESENCE IN THE EASTERN LLANOS, ESPECIALLY IN AREAS WHERE OIL COMPANIES HAVE BEEN ASKED FOR MONEY BY GUERRILLAS. ACCORDING TO A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL, FOREIGN COMPANIES ARE OBLIGED TO REPORT ANY SITUATION THAT MIGHT AFFECT PUBLIC ORDER OR ANY CONTACTS WITH GUERRILLA GROUPS.

8. (C) COMMENT: THE GOC'S DECISION TO LIMIT ITS SANCTION TO THE DISMISSAL OF TWO MANNESMAN EXECUTIVES IS SELF-SERVING. ON ONE HAND, IT CANNOT AFFORD TO DISRUPT THE OIL PIPELINE ###

FORCING THE REMOVAL

OF KEY PERSONNEL IN THE THREE FOREIGN COMPANIES ACCUSED OF BUYING PROTECTION. ON THE OTHER, IT CANNOT ALLOW FOREIGN COMPANIES TO MAKE SUBSTANTIAL PAYMENTS TO SUBVERSIVES WITHOUT WEAKENING RESPECT FOR THE PEACE PROCESS AND LEGITIMATE POLITICAL AUTHORITY. THE QUESTION REMAINS, HOWEVER, WHETHER THE GOC CAN EFFECTIVELY

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NOTE BY OC/T: # GARBLES IN PARA 8. THE CORRECTION WILL FOLLOW.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BOGOTA 08966

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
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PROTECT FOREIGN COMPANY EMPLOYEES WORKING IN REMOTE AREAS INFESTED BY GUERRILLAS. IF NOT, IT IS HARD TO ENVISION HOW THE COMPANIES CAN COMPLETE THE PIPELINE WITHOUT REACHING SOME SORT OF MODUS VIVIENDI WITH THE GUERRILLAS. END COMMENT.

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